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Concert: Considering Matthew Shepard

Ithaca College Choir

Janet Galván

Norm Johnson

Dann Coakwell

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Considering Matthew Shepard by Craig Hella Johnson

Ithaca College Choir

Janet Galván, artist director and conductor

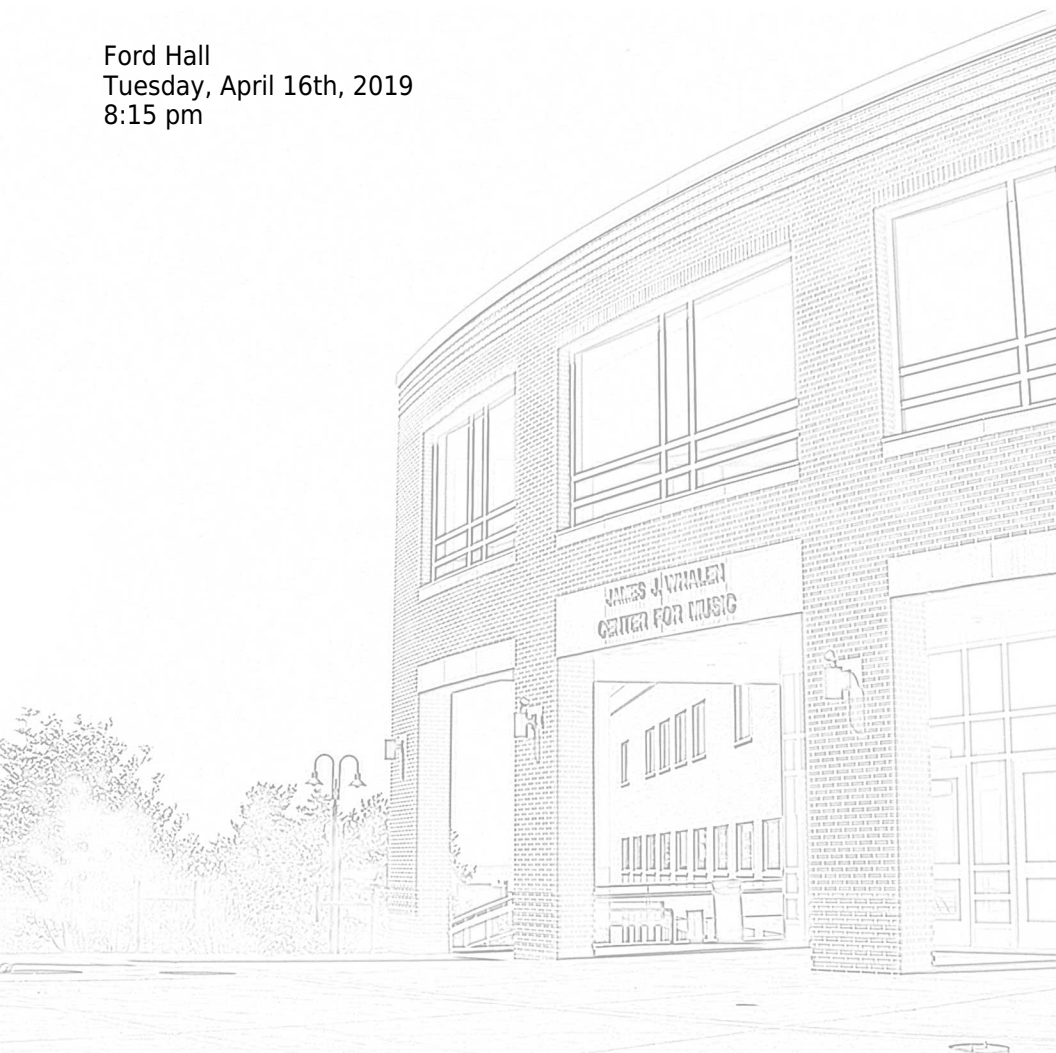
Norm Johnson, stage director

Dann Coakwell, consultant

Ford Hall

Tuesday, April 16th, 2019

8:15 pm



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Prologue

Cattle, Horses, Sky and Grass

Ben Monacelli, tenor soloist
Erin O'Rourke, Syona Ayyanketil, Naya Griles, Olivia Brice, small group

Ordinary Boy

Kristy Shuck, narrator
Virginia Douglas, Judy Shepard
Nick Duffin and Francesco DiLello, Matthew Shepard

We Tell Each Other Stories

Jamila Drecker-Waxman, soprano soloist

Passion

The Fence (before)

Sean Gatta, bass soloist

The Fence (that night)

Andrew Sprague, baritone soloist

A Protestor

Keep It Away From Me (The Wound of Love)

Hannah Martin, mezzo-soprano soloist
Asila Folds, Margot Wegman, McKinny Danger-James, small group

Fire of the Ancient Heart

Nick Duffin, baritone soloist
Francesco DiLello, speaker

We Are All Sons

I Am Like You

Asila Folds, soprano soloist
Emily O'Connor, mezzo-soprano soloist
Raul Dominguez, tenor soloist
Michael White, bass soloist

The Innocence

Sam Sauer, baritone soloist

The Fence (one week later)

Megan Jones, soprano soloist

Stars

William Fazzina, Dennis Shepard

In Need of Breath

Brendan Smith, tenor soloist

Gently Rest (Deer Lullaby)

Deer Song

Syona Ayyanketil, Kristy Shuck, Olivia Brice, soprano soloists

The Fence (after) / The Wind

Soloists:

*Catherine J. Kondi, Erin O'Rourke, and Kristy Shuck, soprano
Alexia Castle, Leah Sperber, and Maggie Storm, mezzo-soprano
Adam Tarpey and Robert Reynolds-Turnage, tenor
Anthony Pilcher, bass*

Pilgrimage

Epilogue

Meet Me Here

Sage Stoakley, soprano soloist

Thank You

Ally Brown and Maxwell Kuhnel, speakers

Soloists:

*Hannah Cayem, Melodia Mae Rinaldi, Catherine J. Kondi, Naya Grilles, Kristy
Shuck, Sage Stoakley, Jamila Drecker-Waxman, soprano
McKinny Danger-James, Virginia Douglas, Emily Dimitriou, Leah Etheridge,
Leah Sperber, Maggie Storm, Margot Wegman, Hannah Martin, Darius Elmore,
alto
Robert Reynolds-Turnage, Adam Tarpey, Lucas Hickman, William Fazzina,
Raul Dominguez, Daniel Carney, tenor
Anthony Pilcher, Cameron Costello, Andrew Sprague, Marqis Griffith, Sam
Sauer, Luke Armentrout, Michael White, bass*

All of Us

Melodia Mae Rinaldi, Sage Stoakley, Emily Dimitriou, small group

Reprise: This Chant of Life (Cattle, Horses, Sky and Grass)

Ben Monacelli, tenor soloist

*Ally Brown, Cameron Costello, Hannah Cayem, Syona Ayyanketil,
Francesco Di Lello, Jack Hogan, Erin O'Rourke, Adam Tarpey, Will
Fazzina, Maggie Storm, Maxwell Kuhnel, Recitation Speakers*

Special thank you to:

James Marsden, Louis Sisneros and the Matthew Shepard Foundation
Craig Hella Johnson, Composer of Considering Matthew Shepard
Ann McNair, Managing Director, Conspirare
Shirley Collado, President of Ithaca College
La Jerne Terry Cornish, Provost & Senior Vice President of Educational Affairs
Karl Paulnack, Dean, School of Music
David Pacun, Associate Dean, School of Music
Erik Kibelsbeck, Manager of Concerts and Facilities
Sheila Ossit, Operations and External Relations Officer, School of Music
Brian Dozoretz, Manager of Recording Services
Alex Perialas, Associate Professor of Sound Recording Technology

The Ithaca College Voice Faculty:

Dann Coackwell	Elisabeth Marshall	Dawn Pierce
Martha Guth	Carol McAmis	Rachel Shutz
Brad Hougham	Deborah	Alison Wahl
Carl Johengen	Mongomery-Cove	Ivy Walz
Jennifer Kay	Patrice Pastore	Marc Webster

Sean Linfors and the Ithaca College Chorus
The Ithaca College Women's Chorale
Jamie Spillane, Director of Choral Studies, University of Connecticut

Raul Dominguez, Graduate Choral Assistant
Melodia Mae Rinaldi, Graduate Choral Assistant
Ithaca College ACDA Student Chapter
Victoria Brooks, Choral Assistant

Janet Galván, Director of Choral Activities at Ithaca College, has conducted professional and university orchestras including Virtuosi Pragenses, the Madrid Chamber Orchestra, and the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra in choral/orchestral performances. She has conducted national, divisional, and state choruses throughout the country for the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), National Association for Music Educators, and the Organization of American Kodály Educators. She has conducted in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall and Avery Fisher Hall, Boston's Symphony Hall, Washington's Constitution Hall, Minneapolis' Symphony Hall, Pittsburgh's Heinz Hall, and Nashville's Schermerhorn Symphony Center. She has also conducted and led masterclasses in Ireland, The United Kingdom, Canada, Brazil, and throughout Europe, as well as at national music conferences and the World Symposium on Choral Music. Galván was the sixth national honor choir conductor for ACDA, and was the conductor of the North American Children's Choir which performed annually in Carnegie Hall. She was also a guest conductor for the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. She was also on the faculty for the Carnegie Hall Choral Institute, the Transient Glory Symposium and the Oberlin Conducting Institute. Galván was awarded the Ithaca College Faculty Excellence Award for teaching, scholarship, and service in the spring of 2018. She was presented the 3rd Distinguished Alumni Award in Music Education and Choral Music from the University of North Carolina in 2016, and she received the NY ACDA Outstanding Choral Director Award.

Norm Johnson retired from full-time teaching at Ithaca College last spring. Aside from his continuing involvement with FLEFF, he directed this season's Menotti One-Acts and will direct *Dido and Aeneas* next season as well. Other projects include scenic designs for Opera Ithaca and the Ithaca Shakespeare Company and directing Kathleen Mulligan in *The Belle of Amherst* in Beirut in the fall. Many thanks to Janet Galvan for the invitation to be a part of this stunning work!

Currently in his second year on the Ithaca College faculty, **Dr. Dann Coakwell** has been praised as a "clear-voiced and eloquent ... vivid storyteller" (The New York Times), with "a gorgeous lyric tenor that could threaten or caress on the turn of a dime" (The Dallas Morning News). He can be heard as a soloist on the Grammy-winning album, *The Sacred Spirit of Russia* (Harmonia Mundi 2014), the Grammy-nominated *Considering Matthew Shepard* (Harmonia Mundi 2016), by composer Craig Hella Johnson, and the critically praised premiere of composer Mohammed Fairouz's *Zabur* (Naxos 2016), with the Indianapolis Symphony Choir and Orchestra. Coakwell has performed as a soloist across Europe, Japan, and throughout the Americas, under renowned conductors such as Helmuth Rilling, Masaaki Suzuki, William Christie, Nicholas McGegan, Matthew Halls, María Guinand, and Craig Hella Johnson, among many others. Regularly appearing in prominent New York venues such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, he has also performed as a soloist with acclaimed organizations such as Internationale Bachakademie Stuttgart in Germany, Bach Collegium Japan, Orquesta Sinfónica de Venezuela, Pacific Baroque Orchestra, Oregon Bach Festival, Conspirare, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra in San Francisco, Portland Baroque Orchestra, Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra, and the symphony/philharmonic orchestras of Kansas City, Nashville, Charlotte, Indianapolis, and Quad Cities.

Considering Matthew Shepard

Text authors and publication credits.

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2. Ordinary Boy © Craig Hella Johnson / From The Meaning of Matthew, by Judy Shepard p. 206. / + I Love Poem by Matt Shepard © by Judy Shepard. Used by kind permission.

3. We Tell Each Other Stories We Tell Each Other Stories © Craig Hella Johnson

5. The Fence (before)* Lesléa Newman

7. The Fence (that night) Material reproduced from Hildegard of Bingen from *Symphonia: A Critical Edition of the "Symphonia Armonie Celestium Revelationum"* (*Symphony of the Harmony of Celestial Revelations*), *Second Edition*, translated by Barbara Newman. © 1988, 1998 by Cornell University. Used by permission of the translator, Barbara Newman, and publisher, Cornell University Press. / The Fence (that night)* Lesléa Newman

8. A Protestor * Lesléa Newman / Additional italicized text by Craig Hella Johnson

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12. Fire of the Ancient Heart by Michael Dennis Browne and Craig Hella Johnson © 2015 by Michael Dennis Browne and Craig Hella Johnson. Used by kind permission. / ^Genesis 4:10 / #Rumi / ~William Blake. With thanks to Tom Burritt – percussion consultation and special arrangement

14. Stray Birds Stray Birds by Rabindranath Tagore

15. We Are All Sons (part 1) by Michael Dennis Browne © 2015 by Michael Dennis Browne. Used by kind permission.

16. I Am Like You/We Are All Sons (part 2) © Craig Hella Johnson

17. The Innocence by Michael Dennis Browne and Craig Hella Johnson © 2015 by Michael Dennis Browne and Craig Hella Johnson. Used by kind permission.

19. The Fence (one week later)* Lesléa Newman

21. Stars* Lesléa Newman / Dennis Shepard Statement to the Court

23. In Need of Breath Hafiz lyrics from "In Need of the Breath" from the Penguin (New York) publication *The Gift: Poems* by Hafiz by Daniel Ladinsky. Copyright © 1999 Daniel Ladinsky and used with his permission.

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28. The Fence (after)/The Wind* Lesléa Newman

29. Pilgrimage* Lesléa Newman

30. Meet Me Here © Craig Hella Johnson

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Recitations I-X compiled from news reports and crafted by Craig Hella Johnson and Michael Dennis Browne.

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“Introduction” from OCTOBER MOURNING: A SONG FOR MATTHEW SHEPARD by Lesléa Newman

On Tuesday, October 6, 1998, at approximately 11:45 p.m., twenty-one-year-old Matthew Shepard, a gay college student attending the University of Wyoming, was kidnapped from a bar by twenty-one-year old Aaron McKinney and twenty-one-year-old Russell Henderson. Pretending to be gay, the two men lured Matthew Shepard into their truck, drove him to the outskirts of Laramie, robbed him, beat him with a pistol, tied him to a buck-rail fence, and left him to die. The next day, at about 6:00 p.m. – eighteen hours after the attack – he was discovered and taken to a hospital. He never regained consciousness and died five days later, on Monday, October 12, with his family by his side.

One of the last things Matthew Shepard did that Tuesday night was attend a meeting of the University of Wyoming’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Association. The group was putting final touches on plans for Gay Awareness Week, scheduled to begin the following Sunday, October 11, coinciding with a National Coming Out Day. Planned campus activities included a film showing, an open poetry reading, and a keynote speaker.

That keynote speaker was me.

I never forgot what happened in Laramie, and around the tenth anniversary of Matthew Shepard’s death, I found myself thinking more and more about him. And so I began writing a series of poems, striving to create a work of art that explores the events surrounding Matthew Shepard’s murder in order to gain a better understanding of their impact on myself and the world.

What really happened at the fence that night? Only three people know the answer to that question. Two of them are imprisoned, convicted murderers whose stories often contradict each other (for example, in separate interviews both McKinney and Henderson have claimed that he alone tied Matthew Shepard to the fence). The other person who knows what really happened that night is dead. We will never know his side of the story.

This book is my side of the story.

While the poems in this book are inspired by actual events, they do not in any way represent the statements, thoughts, feelings, opinions, or attitudes of any actual person. The statements, thoughts, feelings, opinions, and attitudes conveyed belong to me. All monologues contained within the poems are figments of my imagination; no actual person spoke any of the words contained within the body of any poem. Those words are mine and mine alone. When the words of an actual person are used as a short epigraph for a poem, the source of that quote is cited at the back of the book in a section entitled “Notes,” which contains citations and suggestions for further reading about the crime. The poems, which are meant to be read in sequential order as one whole work, are a work of poetic invention and imagination: a historical novel in verse. The poems are not an objective reporting of Matthew Shepard’s murder and its aftermath; rather they are my own personal interpretation of them.

There is a bench on the campus of the University of Wyoming dedicated to Matthew Shepard, inscribed with the words *He continues to make a difference*. My hope is that readers of *October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard* will be inspired to make a difference and honor his legacy by erasing hate and replacing it with compassion, understanding, and love.

Candlewick.com

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Considering Matthew Shepard was developed with the support of Conspirare. Please visit **conspirare.org** to learn more about this project and learn more about the many individuals and organizations who support this work.

Conspirare, The Matthew Shepard Foundation, and KLRU-TV, Austin PBS are partnering to ensure that *Considering Matthew Shepard* reaches as many people as possible on the stage and screen. The Matthew Shepard Foundation has provided ongoing support in outreach and project development. Conspirare and KLRU-TV, Austin PBS are co-producing a *Considering Matthew Shepard* television special commemorating the 20th anniversary of Matthew Shepard's passing. KLRU profiled Craig Hella Johnson's creative process in their documentary series *Arts in Context* (available at artsincontext.org). The film will be accompanied by outreach and engagement programs.

Orchestra

Connor Buckley, piano
Sungmin Kim, piano
Michael Galvan*, clarinet
Lucia Barrero, violin
Kyle Armbrust*, viola
Jessie Hsu, cello
Ryan Petriello, double bass
Nicholas Young, guitar
Conrad Alexander*, percussion
Katie McInerney, percussion

Lead Audio Engineer:

Andrew Nolish

Recording Services Staff:

Morgan Volk
Connor Moses
Alex Stuart

*denotes Ithaca College Faculty

Ithaca College Choir

Soprano I

Syona Ayyankeril
Olivia Brice
Jamila Drecker-Waxman
Asila Folds
Naya Griles
Megan Jones

Soprano II

Hannah Cayem
Catherine Kondi
Erin O'Rourke
Melodia Mae Rinaldi
Kristy Shuck
Sage Stoakley

Alto I

Virginia Douglas
Hannah Martin
Emily O'Connor
Bergen Price
Leah Sperber
Maggie Storm
Margot Wegman

Alto II

Ally Brown
Alexia Castle
McKinny Danger-James
Emily Dimitriou
Darius Elmore
Leah Etheridge
Abby Sullivan

Tenor I

Connor Buckley
Daniel Carney
Francesco DiLello
William Fazzina
Lucas Hickman
Jack Hogan
Tommy Koo

Tenor II

Raul Dominguez
Liam Fletcher
Ben Monacelli
Brendan Smith
Adam Tarpey
Robert Reynolds-Turnage

Baritone

Nick Duffin
Marqis Griffith
Maxwell Kuhnel
Samuel Sauer
Andrew Sprague
Michael White

Bass

Luke Armentrout
Cameron Costello
Ethan Fisher
Sean Gatta
Sungmin Kim
Anthony Pilcher
Evan Sacco